

# January 2007 Smoke Signals

The Indian Hills Radio Club

www.hac.org/ihr

Wickliffe, Ohio 44092

## Whoopie! Let's bring in the Club's New Year on Jan. 8th

*Hope you'll join us in welcoming 2007*

**Wow! Another year gone!** But ready or not, here we go into the wild blue atmosphere for a new year of ham radio adventures. Time to turn our attention to some resolutions that will make 2007 a good one for each of us and our radio club.

Our regular meeting on Monday the 8th will give us an opportunity to report on recent holiday happenings and enjoy the fellowship that our club provides. Enjoy!

We hope that Al, W8NPH, will have recovered from shoulder surgery and be able to join us and even conduct the 50-50 raffle. Another item is to begin moving ahead on a membership drive, which will be led by Jim, K8BLB.

**Our program** will feature an exploration of the 160-meter band, with some rare recordings of top band record-breaking DX contacts of the past. We invite members to share some of their 160 experiences, which should serve to introduce some of us who are new to this band and yet to sample its unique features.

If you have a friend who enjoys a night out, please invite them to join us.

The fun and fellowship begins at 7:15 p.m. in the community room of the Wickliffe Public Library, 1713 Lincoln Road. Hope to see you there! ■

**Indian Hills Radio Club Net**  
**Thursday Evenings**  
**8:00 PM local time**  
**146.430 MHz simplex**

## The FCC drops Morse code As a ham license requirement

*Long-awaited decision no surprise*

**It took a while**, but the FCC finally eliminated Morse code as necessary for an Amateur Radio license. The move follows similar decisions by many countries who decided that access to the HF spectrum should not require Morse proficiency.

The FCC also ordered that all Technician licensees, regardless of whether or not they have passed a Morse test, be given privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters.

The rule changes are expected to become official 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, or sometime in February.

For additional comments on the FCC action, see "Chewing the Rag" editorial elsewhere in this issue. ■

## Major story on the end of Morse Code appears in the NY Times

*As usual, negative news is featured*

**The headline:** "It may be the ultimate SOS – Morse code is in distress." The story, on page one of the *NY Times* business section, tells readers of the FCC decision to end Morse code testing of ham radio license applicants. A large photo at the beginning of the story showed a woman using a telegraph key in the London post office in 1932, noting that teletype machines soon replaced the key.

"It's part of the dumbing down of America," said Nancy Kott, editor of *WorldRadio*, in the story. "We live in a society today that wants something for nothing."

Two hams at Stanford University said Morse will "become the loving passion by radioheads" much as another dead language, Latin, is kept alive today. ■

## Attend "Coax College" on line To compare performance *W8DOE finds gems on the Internet*

All coaxial cable is not created equal. There are wide variations depending upon type, brand, size, and age. Joe did a Google search under "coaxial Cable" and "coaxial cable calculator" and found a wealth of information. We visited a Website hosted by the Orchard City Amateur Radio Club and did some computations. The chart below shows some interesting comparisons.

Comparison of 100 feet of coax at 28 MHz with 100 watts input and an SWR of 1:1		
Belden 9913 (RG8); Wireman CQ102	Loss .66 dB	Power out 85.9
Tandy/Radio Shack RG8X*	Loss 1.74 dB	Power out 66.9
Belden 8240 RG58	Loss 1.92 dB	Power out 64.3
Tandy/Radio Shack RG58	Loss 2.0 dB	Power out 62.5
* Doesn't sell RG8		

Other types of feedlines also can be compared. So do a Google and learn! ■

### Smoke Signals is the official publication of The Indian Hills Radio Club.

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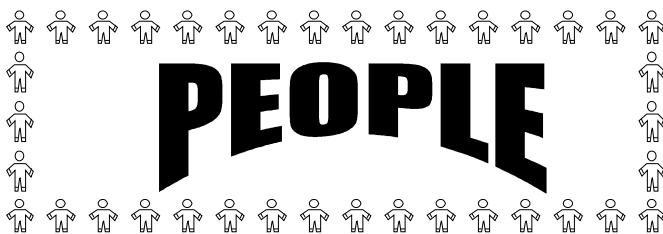
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**Top band trend?** We asked members at the last meeting about their plans for 2007. **Joe Gutoskey, W8DOE**, who has restored some classic AM fone transmitters, plans to become active on 75 and 160 meters using this modulation technique. Meanwhile, we've had our receiver abused by the loudenboomer signal from **Tom Korycki, KC8QGJ**, as he presides over his growing group of 160 meter fellow travelers. Talk centers on plans for a big bash cookout/campout at the next Dayton Hamvention. Recently heard chatting with Tom and his friends was **Les Peine, K8LP**, who likewise puts out a good signal from Chardon. Tom points out that he's about to observe five years on the air.

**More resolutions:** Some other Indian Hillers have shared their 2007 plans. **Herb Schieman, K8AZW**, plans to be on the air more this year, especially Air Force MARS and working DX on SSB. And, its moving time for **Jim Iams, K8BLB**, who will be transferring his rigs from the car into the house. One of the resolutions of **Les Peine, K8LP**, he says, is "Living!" Plus keeping his equipment working and keeping good neighbors.

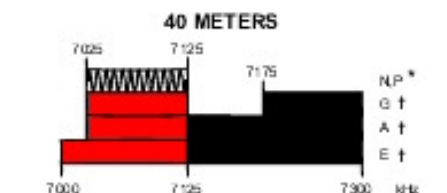
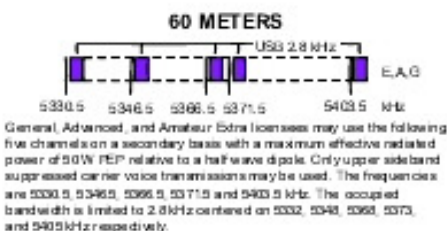
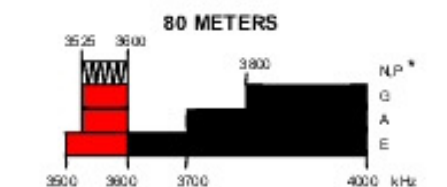
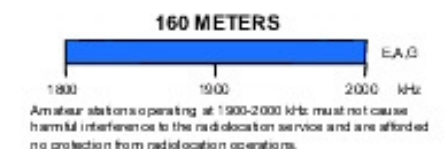
**RFI? Say it ain't so!** Veteran DXer **Dick Scott, W8FDN**, is no stranger to 160 meters, but RFI in his shack certainly is! Dick reports that this problem has popped up recently, and asks, "What do I choke?" (We can think of a few things that ferrite chokes would fit — Ed.)

**School days!** We recently attended a very nice holiday party at the Gilmour Academy Amateur Radio station hosted by Brother Ken Kane, KG8DN. Lots of local notable hams were on hand, including **Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ**, who invited a couple of us to ride to the event in his new red Mustang. One interesting thing at Gilmour was a chance to sample Echolink. Ken was chatting with a ham in Australia with clear audio and a "5 by 9" signal on the PC. With few sunspots, we must say that the Internet does provide an attractive alternative method of communicating minus QRN and QRM. But, some ask, "Is this really ham radio?" Maybe it isn't, but it certainly is an interesting option. ■

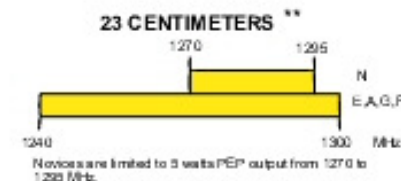
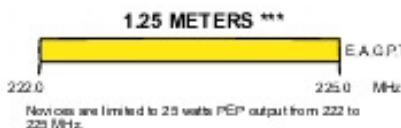
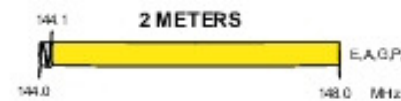
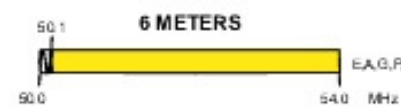
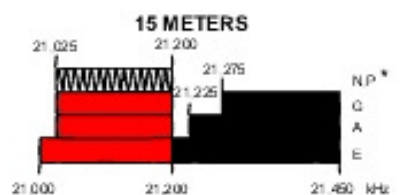
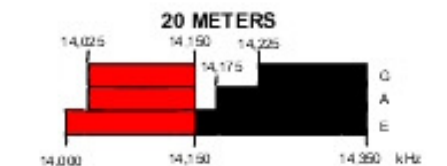
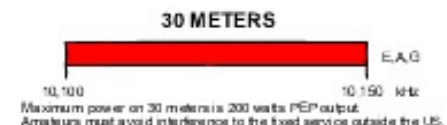
# US Amateur Bands

**ARRL** The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO**

Effective Date December 15, 2006



† Phone and Image modes are permitted between 7075 and 7100 kHz for FCC licensed stations in ITU Regions 1 and 3 and by FCC licensed stations in ITU Region 2 West of 130 degrees West longitude or South of 20 degrees North latitude. See Sections 97.309(c) and 97.307 (k)(1). No voice and Technician Plus licenses outside ITU Region 2 may use CW only between 7025 and 7075 kHz. See Section 97.301(e). These exceptions do not apply to stations in the continental US.



## US AMATEUR POWER LIMITS

At all times, transmitter power should be kept down to that necessary to carry out the desired communications.

Power is rated in watts PEP output. Unless otherwise stated, the maximum power output is 1500 W.

Power for all license classes is limited to 200 W in the 10, 100-10.100 kHz band.

Novices and Technicians are restricted to 200 W below 28.5 MHz.

In addition, Novices are restricted to 25 W in the 222-225 MHz band and 5 W in the 1270-1295 MHz subband.

## KEY

- █ = CW, RTTY and data
- █ = CW, RTTY, data, MCW, test, phone and image
- █ = CW, phone and image
- █ = CW and SSB phone
- █ = CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image
- = CW only
- █ = USB Phone only

- E = AMATEUR EXTRA
- A = ADVANCED
- G = GENERAL
- P = TECHNICIAN PLUS
- T = TECHNICIAN
- N = NOVICE

\* Technicians who have passed the 5 wpm Morse code exam are indicated as "T".

\*\* Geographical and power restrictions apply to all bands with frequencies above 420 MHz. See *The ARRL FCC Rule Book* for more information about your area.

\*\*\* 219-220 MHz allocated to amateurs on a secondary basis for fixed digital message forwarding systems only and can be operated by all licensees except Novices.

All licensees except Novices are authorized all modes on the following frequencies:

- 2300-2810 MHz
- 2390-2450 MHz
- 3300-3500 MHz
- 5650-5925 MHz
- 10.0-10.5 GHz
- 24.0-24.25 GHz
- 47.0-47.2 GHz
- 76.0-81.0 GHz
- 122.25-125.0 GHz
- 134-141 GHz
- 241-250 GHz
- All above 275 GHz



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## News from the Wide World of Amateur Radio

**New 60-meter band?** The ARRL is asking the FCC to propose a new 60-meter band during the 2007 World Radio Communication Conference. The band would cover 5260 to 5410 kHz.

**ARRL antenna party:** A recent major upgrade of the W1AW antenna farm in Newington was worth \$24,000. The new hardware included 14 HF yagis and beams for 2 meters and 70 cm. The big bertha tower of 120 feet holds two yagis for 40 meters, plus two each for 20 and 15 and one for 10 meters.

**League sues FCC:** The ARRL has begun a law suit in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia against the FCC. The suit says that current FCC BPL rules are “arbitrary, capricious and contrary to law” and will adversely affect ARRL members by permitting unlicensed users of the spectrum to interfere with licensed users.

**FCC lifts license:** David Cox, W5OER, of Pride, Louisiana, who is currently in prison following a felony conviction, has had his ham license revoked by the FCC. The Commission says that Cox lacks the “character” qualifications to hold a license.

**Historic beacon:** A Cornwall, England, beacon station, GB3SSS, will be transmitting on 1960 kHz this winter to explore how Marconi was able to span the Atlantic by wireless for the first time on December 12, 1901. On the receiving end will be VO1NA.

**Winter hamfests:** The Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation Hamfest is scheduled for Sunday, January 14th at the Tri-County Career Center in Nelsonville, Ohio. Info at: n8trk@yahoo.com. The Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Hamfest is Sunday, February 4th at Gargus Hall, 1965 No. Ridge Road, Sheffield, Ohio (near Lorain) Admission \$6.00. Tables \$10.00. Contact: Tom Porter, W8KYZ, <tporter161@comcast.net> or Al Moriarty, N8CX, <n8cx@mindspring.com> ■



## Chewing the Rag: Odds and Ends From Here, There and On the Air. Editorial by W1HEO

### Morse code si? Or Morse code no?

**Most hams feel strongly** about Morse code and whether or not it should be a requirement for hams. The FCC certainly stirred up a hornet’s nest of opinions regarding the role of CW in the Amateur Service, but that’s to be expected. Since the dawn of the wireless era, Morse code has been with us. It’s in our genes.

First, giving the devil his due, why did the FCC drop this long-used communication method? In their words, “We believe that the public interest is not served by requiring facility in Morse code when the trend in Amateur communications is to use voice and digital technologies for exchanging messages.”

**It’s hard to argue** with that. Nor is it difficult to ignore that numerous countries already had sent the Morse code license requirement to its grave. May it rest in peace.

We have to agree with those who say that Morse has been useful in keeping the Amateur HF license a prize requiring more effort than memorizing the license manual. It was one dramatic difference between Amateur Radio and the CB crowd.

Did the Morse “keep out the bad apples” or the less-motivated among the wannabes? The FCC said that it did not. “Education and self-policing does,” it added.

**So will Morse disappear?** Probably not. But it may well fade as new hams enter our ranks without a knowledge of Morse. But the advantages of CW remain constant in terms of ease of transmission, narrow bandwidth, and its usefulness when conditions make voice less reliable.

Like many hams of our generation, CW is something I had to learn and later improve upon as I upgraded to Extra. Yes, I struggled to copy 20 wpm, but I did it. I still use it to chase DX, having worked 320 countries on CW. But my preference is voice when it comes to ragchewing. It just takes so much longer to send a message by CW than voice. While speed is an issue, I lack the fist to make it a close race. But I hasten to add that it’s Morse that I rely on to copy the weak stations during QRN, QSB and QRM. Further, it’s a skill not everyone has, and I pride myself on having stuck with it while struggling to learn this special language.

Morse may no longer be necessary for a license, but it will be a long time before it disappears from the bands. Diddle dah didah! ■